

**OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD****REGULAR MEETING**

Independent School District No. 492

**Monday, June 9, 2025 5:30 pm**

Annex Recital Hall

205 4th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carolyn Dube Carol McAlister  
Robert Hartman Peggy Young  
Cece Kroc Daniel Zielke  
Don Leathers Superintendent Dr. Joey Page

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**MEETING CALLED**

**TO ORDER:** Chairperson Dube called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex Recital Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA APPROVED:** A motion was made by Young, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**TAX ABATEMENT**

**APPROVED:** A motion was made by Young and seconded by Zielke to approve the tax abatement request from Joseph Peine for new construction located at Seven Springs 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lot 009, Block 001 (PIN 08.511.0090) with an estimated project valuation at \$650,000. Motion carried 6-1 with Leathers voting no.

**TAX ABATEMENT**

**APPROVED:** Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the tax abatement request from HRA of Austin for new construction located at Westridge Estate, Lot 001, Block 001 (PIN 34.786.0010) with an estimated project valuation of \$350,000.

**AHS SPRING SPORTS**

**RECAP:** Student athletes from each of the spring sports provided a recap of their season.

**2025-26 AHS EXTENDED**

**FIELD TRIPS APPROVED:** A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Leathers and carried unanimously to approve the 2025-26 AHS extended field trips.

(A LIST OF APPROVED TRIPS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**2025-26 STUDENT**

**HANDBOOK APPROVED:** Kroc made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the 2025-26 student handbook and each school addendum with a slight change noted to the elementary handbook regarding birthday treats.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S**

**REPORT:** Superintendent Page noted several staff and student recognitions and highlighted recent and upcoming events.

**SCHOOL BOARD**

**REPORTS:** McAlister provided highlights of some of the events she attended this past month and thanked all those involved in the graduation ceremony. She also provided a brief recap of this month's APEX meeting. Leathers commented on Sunday's Gabby Weiss memorial service, and Dube congratulated new student school representative Lydia Masara who will be joining the board in September.

**OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD****REGULAR MEETING****MINUTES APPROVED:**

Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of 5/12/25 and study session minutes of 5/27/25 as printed.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MINUTES IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK AND POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.)

**PERSONNEL REPORT APPROVED:**

Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the following personnel items.

**Administrative Staff:**

Contract – Ashley Kaplan, K-4 Curriculum and EL Coordinator, effective 7/1/25

**Certified Staff:**

Contracts – Laura Anderson, grade 2 teacher, effective 8/11/24; Fairy Apolo, EL teacher, effective 8/11/25; Garnet Asmundson, phy ed teacher, effective 8/11/25; Savanna Frie, grade 1 teacher, effective 8/11/25; Candice Haugen, SPED teacher, effective 8/11/25; Julia Kranz, social worker, effective 8/11/25; Ashley Langfeldt, art teacher, effective 8/11/25; Porscha McClanahan, grade 5 teacher, effective 8/11/25; Josh McRae, behavior interventionist, effective 8/11/25; Daniel Reichmann, science teacher, effective 8/11/25; Amber Robinson, EL teacher, effective 8/11/25; Clare St. Catherine, psychologist, effective 8/11/25; and Michael Veldman, grade 6 teacher, effective 8/11/25

Request for Leave – Lars Johnson, art teacher, effective 8/27/25-9/19/25

Resignations – Clarie Jensen, ECFE teacher, effective 5/30/25; Mandy Leopold, EL teacher, effective 5/30/25; Maggie Weis, grade 4 teacher, effective 5/30/25; and Hunter Wentz, grade 2 teacher, effective 5/30/25

**Non-certified Staff:**

Contracts for Approval – Ashe Bremner, summer KK aide, 4 hrs/day, effective 6/2/26; Ayla Gullickson, summer KK aide, 4 hrs/day, effective 5/30/25; Brianna Pogalz, food service helper, 3.5 hrs/day, effective 5/5/25; McKenna Stadig, summer KK aide, 2.5 hrs/day, effective 6/2/25; and Peyton Squier, summer KK aide, 4 hrs/day, effective 5/30/25

Changes in Assignments – Elaine Grage, head cook, move from AHS to Southgate effective 5/12/25

Requests for Leave – James Huff, custodian, effective 5/19/25-6/17/25 and Rosa Luna, Success Coach, effective 8/11/25-10/31/25

Resignations – Blanca Almanza, ECFE asst, effective 5/23/25; Alexandro Centeno, SPED para, effective 5/9/25; Ivon Gbeto, French Success Coach, effective 5/30/25; Esther Martinez, ECFE asst, effective 5/30/25; Candace Miller, food service helper, effective 5/21/25; and Sue Severson, food service helper, effective 5/30/25

Retirement – Jenette Sullivan, food service helper, effective 5/28/26

Terminations – Kimberly Bradford, para, effective 5/16/25 and Kim Hillson, SPED para, effective 5/22/25

**Activities and Athletics:**

Contract – Dave Bahr, head girls soccer coach, effective 5/6/25

**BILLS APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the bills for payment as of 6/9/25.

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(A COPY OF THE BILLS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the April 2025 treasurer's report.

(A COPY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**HEALTH CURRICULUM  
ADOPTED:**

Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the adoption of Goodheart-Willcox curriculum for health education in grades 7-12.

**CLA AUDIT FIRM  
APPROVED:**

Young made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the hiring of Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) to conduct the district audit for FY25.

**NEW STUDENT ACTIVITY  
APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the addition of the Asian Student Union as an AHS student activity.

**STUDENT ACTIVITY  
ACCOUNT APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to approve the addition of a student activity account for the AHS Diversity Club.

**REPORTS AVAILABLE:**

Individual cabinet reports and the monthly school site report were available for review.

**LIEP PLAN APPROVED:**

Young made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to approve the Language Instruction Education Program (LIEP) plan as reviewed by EL Coordinator Sheila Berger. We currently have 1300 students identified as requiring English Language (EL) services throughout the district.

**HEALTH AND DENTAL  
RATES APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Zielke and carried unanimously to approve the 2025-26 health and dental insurance rates. Health insurance rates will increase by 14% and dental by 3% over last year.

**WORKERS COMP  
BID APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Hartman, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the workers compensation bid from SFM at a cost of \$359,892 for 2025-26.

**HEALTH INSURANCE  
THIRD PARTY  
ADMINISTRATOR  
APPROVED:**

Kroc made a motion, seconded by McAlister and carried unanimously to follow the recommendation from National Insurance Services (NIS) and the district's Insurance Committee to remain with BlueLink as our third-party insurance administrator and transition to a January 1 renewal date effective January 1, 2026.

**OFFICIAL MINUTES: AUSTIN SCHOOL BOARD****REGULAR MEETING**

**DONATIONS APPROVED:** A motion was made by McAlister, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve the donations as presented by Executive Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg.

(A COMPLETE COPY OF DONATIONS IS ATTACHED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTE BOOK.)

**FY26 BUDGET OVERVIEW:** Todd Lechtenberg provided an overview of the FY26 budget with the information that is currently available to us. The adopted budget will be presented for approval at the June 24, 2025 special meeting.

**IOWA DESIGNATION  
FOR 2025-26:**

A motion was made by Kroc, seconded by Young and carried unanimously to approve Dr. Joey Page, Superintendent, as the Identified Official with Authority for 2025-26.

**LEA APPOINTMENT FOR  
2025-26:**

A motion was made by Leathers, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to appoint Dr. Katie Baskin as the Local Education Agent (LEA) for 2025-26.

**DELEGATION:**

Matt Simonson addressed the board regarding social studies curriculum.

**BOARD ENTERED  
CLOSED SESSION:**

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Leathers and carried unanimously to enter closed session at 7:27 pm for the purpose of a negotiation update. 7 board members, Superintendent Page, HR Director Sue Stark, Exec Dir of Academics and Admin Services Katie Baskin, Exec Dir of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg, and board secretary Sharon Alms were present for the closed session.

**BOARD ENTERED  
OPEN SESSION:**

Leathers made a motion, seconded by Hartman and carried unanimously to enter open session at 8:14 pm.

**REMINDER OF SCHOOL  
BOARD STUDY SESSION:**

Chairperson Dube reminded board members of the special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, at 4 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Young made a motion, seconded by Kroc and carried unanimously to adjourn at 8:14 pm.

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Cece Kroc, Clerk